

# **MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

**401 North Washington Street, Suite 100  
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**April 22, 2009**

**7:10 p.m.**

### **ATTENDING**

Leila Aridi Afas  
Vanessa E. Atterbear  
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin  
Wilma K. Holmes  
Resa Levy  
Jaclyn R. Lichter  
Ivonne C. Lindley  
Larniece McKoy Moore  
Manar S. Morales  
Reggie L. Oldak  
Sanjay Rai  
Jocelyn Samuels

### **STAFF**

Leah Goldfine  
Ruby V. Marcelo  
Paula S. Rodgers  
Judith Vaughan-Prather

### **ABSENT**

Jane Hobdy  
Chandra Walker Holloway  
Tedi S. Osias

### **GUESTS**

Selena Mendy Singleton, District Director  
for Congresswoman Edwards  
Susan Genn, Maryland CFW

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## **I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**AND MINUTES.....**President Oldak

President Oldak called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Samuels and seconded by Commissioner Levy, the agenda was approved unanimously.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner McKoy Moore, seconded by Commissioner Morales and passed unanimously, the Minutes of the March 25, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

President Oldak introduced the two visitors at the CFW meeting: Selena Mindy Singleton, the District Director for Congresswoman Donna Edwards, and Susan Genn, a commissioner with the Maryland CFW.

## **II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT .....Oldak**

### **A. FY10 Budget Hearing and Budget Worksession**

On April 15, President Oldak testified before the County Council on the CFW FY10 Budget. Commissioners Aridi Afas, Lichter, Morales, Rai, Osias, Levy and Walker Holloway attended the hearing in support of CFW's budget.

On April 17, the County Council's Health and Human Services Committee held its worksession on CFW's budget and Commissioners Aridi Afas, Lichter, and Osias accompanied President Oldak and staff to the worksession to discuss the Commission's work and to answer questions.

President Oldak said she appreciated the presence of so many commissioners at both sessions and said she thought that the Council was impressed by the show of support and by the extent of the CFW's work.

### **B. CFW President Election**

Intent to Run forms for President of CFW were distributed to Commissioners in the April meeting packet. The forms are due back to Executive Director Vaughan-Prather by the May 27 CFW meeting. The election will take place at the June 24 meeting.

### **C. Women's Professional Soccer in Montgomery County**

The women's professional soccer national league has been reinstated. Montgomery County is now home to the Washington Freedom team that will be based at Maryland's SoccerPlex located in Boyds. A letter of welcome will be sent from CFW to the Washington Freedom.

## **III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Workforce Investment Board/Scholarships – County Council Bill 7-09**

On March 24, Commissioner Hobdy, accompanied by Commissioner Rai, testified on behalf of MCCFW to urge the Council to ensure that women and girls would be equally represented on the scholarship board and as scholarship recipients.

In response to Council staff's written comments on the Commission's recommendation, a letter was sent to Council detailing the statistics that underlie the CFW's recommendation.

On April 2, Commissioner Lichter and Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo attended the Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development

Committee worksession where the bill was discussed. The Committee wrote into the legislation a provision that attention will be given to gender equity. The Committee also added early childhood education to the list of careers to be covered by the workforce investment scholarships.

B. Women's History Month Program

On March 31, Commissioners Walker Holloway, Lindley, Morales, and Osias presented a program on "*Contemporary Women's Issues*" at Montgomery College's Germantown campus. The program was very well received. Commissioner Lindley was also invited to participate in a "career day" at the college.

C. New Commissioner Recruitment

Five commissioners' terms will be expiring in June and the four commissioners eligible to reapply are all planning to do so. The CFW will recommend their reappointment, so there is one opening. Ten applicants have applied to serve on the CFW (excluding the 4 commissioners who requested reappointment.) The interview committee (Commissioners Lindley and Holmes; with staffing provided by Executive Director Vaughan-Prather) will conduct interviews on April 29.

D. Family Justice Center Children's Library

Commissioners Levy and Lichter used the \$420 donated by commissioners and staff for Community Service Day to purchase books for the children's library at the Family Justice Center. Administrative Specialist Rodgers will create bookplates indicating CFW's donation of the books.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Update on Implementation of Maryland Pay Equity Legislation

Budget and Legislative Specialist Marcelo called the Department of Labor and Licensing which is charged with implementing the Pay Equity legislation and learned that the office is currently working on reporting requirements, forms, and collection methods to comply with the new law. Ms. Marcelo will stay in contact with this office for periodic updates on the progress that is being made.

**V. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather**

A. Proposal to Establish a Presidential CFW

Legislation (H.R. 1887) was introduced by Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA) to establish a Presidential Commission for Women. The National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) went on record to oppose the legislation because it felt that a Presidential CFW would be duplicative of the work done by the White House Council on Women and Girls, NACW, the many Commissions

for Women (CFWs), Commissions on the Status of Women (CSWs), and the national women's organizations. Existing CFWs got their start from the original Commission on the Status of Women appointed by President Kennedy in 1961. They and the other organizations have developed considerable expertise in the area of women's rights.

President Oldak and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather were sent by NACW to meet with Congresswoman Speier's and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's staff to discuss NACW's concerns. NACW's board of directors has been invited to The White House on April 24 to meet with Tina Tchen, Director of the newly established White House Council on Women and Girls.

Commissioner Samuels moved that the Montgomery County Commission for Women go on record stating its appreciation of the commitment to women's issues that underlies the extent and purpose of H.R. 1887; however MCCFW opposes the means to address those issues through the formation of a Presidential CFW. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lichter and unanimously passed.

**B. Girls Computer Camp Scholarships**

CFW has funds to award 12 scholarships to the 2009 Girls' Summer Computer Camps. At the April Executive Committee, Commissioner Walker Holloway reported that Montgomery College reduces the \$450 tuition to \$60 for students who qualify for the Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) program to attend any of the college's summer youth programs. Commissioner Walker Holloway offered to work with Montgomery College to see if the college would allow CFW to pay the \$60 scholarship fee to allow more girls to attend the computer camps.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Policy and Legislation (PAL) .....Lichter**

A summary was distributed listing the State, Federal and County bills on PAL's 2009 legislative agenda and reporting the actions taken on those bills. On the state level, there were a total of 19 bills and CFW achieved its goal on 9 bills (47%). In addition, there was movement in the direction CFW advocated on many more bills. (H.R.1887 was also added to the legislative agenda).

The PAL Committee had a very busy legislative agenda and President Oldak said that more commissioners are needed to help monitor the legislative issues. The PAL e-alert system seemed to work very well.

The PAL Committee will hold a wrap-up meeting by telephone on April 29.

Commissioner Lindley suggested that staff include an option to sign up for the PAL e-alerts as part of the registration process for the 2010 Women's Legislative Briefing.

- B. Immigrant Women in Montgomery County (IWin) .....Lindley

The IWin Committee met earlier and included representatives of the County Executive's ethnic advisory boards who were invited to the meeting to share their views on the needs of women in the various cultural communities in the County. The guests included Lily Qi, the liaison to the Middle Eastern and Asian Pacific Islander communities; Karla Silvestre, liaison to the Latin American community; and Marie-Rose Sirikari, a member of the county's African Affairs Advisory Group.

The Divorce Handbook is finalized and will go to print this week. Work will begin immediately on its Spanish translation.

- C. Mothers and Poverty (MAP)

The MAP Agenda for Action is nearly finalized. It will be released at a meeting of the Montgomery County Council of Women's Organizations (MCCWO) on June 10. Briefings will be offered to the County Executive and the County Council before then.

## **VII. LIAISON REPORTS**

- A. Montgomery County Universal Pre-K Implementation Work Group.....Lichter

The Montgomery County Council's Preschool Implementation Work Group presented its findings to the County Council on March 30. A task force will probably be established to begin implementation of its recommendations. The first programs will be placed in schools that have a high number of FARM participants.

- B. Family Justice Center .....Levy

The Family Justice Center's (FJC) officially opens on April 27. Montgomery Alliance is holding an ice cream social on May 17 from 3-5pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Kensington, to raise funds to help furnish the FJC children's waiting room.

The "grand opening" is set for Monday, May 18.

- C. National Association for Commissions for Women .....Vaughan-Prather

The NACW Board will hold its annual meeting April 23-24 at the CFW's office.

NACW Intern Daniele Araujo will finish her internship on May 12. Interviews for a new intern have begun.

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A. Proposal to Consolidate Boards/Commissions/Committees**

A bill was introduced by County Councilmember Leventhal that proposes to consolidate some of the county's boards, commissions, and committees. The MCCFW is not included in the proposal.

### **B. Commissioner Lindley**

Congratulations to Commissioner Lindley who announced that she is pregnant and expecting a baby in October.

### **C. Commissioner Samuels distributed copies of an Amicus Brief that the National Women's Law Center filed in support of the respondents in the Firefighters' Civil Rights Case. The CFW discussed this case at its February 25, 2009 meeting and made a decision to sign on to the amicus brief supporting the position that elimination of discriminatory practices does not constitute reverse discrimination. A decision on the case is expected in June.**

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By  
Paula S. Rodgers  
Montgomery County Commission for Women**